

REPORTS
OF
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARY,
AND STATISTICS OF SOLDIERS,
OF THE
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH,

Rendered March, 1865.

PETERBORO:

TRANSCRIPT OFFICE, - - - K. C. SCOTT, PROPRIETOR.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

THE Superintending School Committee respectfully submit the following Report :

DISTRICT NO. I.

Prudential Committee—G. P. FELT, C. H. BROOKS, T. LITTLE.

First Department. Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Lucy M. Emery*, of East Jaffrey. Miss Emery came among us almost an entire stranger, to take charge of the somewhat difficult school in this department. She passed a good examination, and entered upon her duty with evident zeal. She sustained herself remarkably well throughout the term as *an instructor*. Her pupils made rapid progress in their studies, as indeed they could not well do otherwise, being tenaceously and rightly compelled to work to some purpose by their teacher. But in the matter of order the committee thought that there was a lack,—not an entire failure,—but a lack of good government. As is apt to be the case with such teachers, the idea of *governing* her school was partially swallowed up in her intense interest in the recitations. There was generally too much noise in the school-room while the ordinary exercises were going on.

Winter Term. Teacher, *Mr. Webster Patterson*. This school was taught by a person of rare mental culture, large experience

in teaching, and enthusiastically devoted to his work. The order of the school,—which was slightly interrupted for a day or two by rebellion to the teacher's authority, on the part of a number of the scholars, but which rebellion was speedily repressed,—was of the highest character. Never has this school appeared so quiet and studious as during this term.

The examination was of the highest character, and evinced thorough instruction on the part of the teacher and studious habits on the part of the scholars, and it is desirable that a high standard of scholarship should be rigidly maintained. It is exceedingly desirable that the parents in this District should continue to take a lively interest in this school. The labors of the prudential committee of this district must ever be onerous, but we trust they will ever be as *efficient* as during the past year.

Second Department. Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah A. Brackett*. The management of this school was excellent; and the instruction, in kind and method, such as can be safely commended. This school had attained a very high character, under an accomplished teacher, the past year, and was very fortunate in receiving the care of as efficient a teacher of youth, as is Miss Brackett. During the term the school made commendable progress and showed careful instruction.

Fall Term. *Miss Brackett* sustained her well established reputation this term, and it is to be hoped her services may long be retained as a teacher of our common schools.

Winter Term. Teacher, *Miss Lucy M. Emery*, of East Jaffrey. This school suffered not a little from sickness, many of the scholars being quite irregular thereby, while some were obliged to be taken out entirely. The teacher labored with her usual energy, and the decided improvement which her pupils had made during the term in sound scholarship, was particularly noticeable at the examination. Parents ought never to allow their children to be tardy at school, or to get dismissed from school, except in cases of extreme necessity,—and such cases should occur very seldom. There were fifty two instances of tardiness and thirty-four of dismissal during the term, as will be seen by referring to the statistical table. Now this evil rests solely with the parents, as does also its correction. For

under our excellent system of weekly reports, no child can play truant without its being known to the parent, if that parent takes the pains to examine the report, which he is expected to do.

Third Department. Teacher, *Mrs. E. J. Hale.* It is scarcely necessary for us to speak of this school. Everybody knows it was a success, as everybody knows it was taught by that long-tried teacher, that affectionate friend of children, who has endeared herself to many mothers in this community, and who has become as it were a fixture in this department, where the very rudiments of an education are obtained. No one can over estimate the importance of this elementary work. No one can be too thankful when it is well done. Fortunate it is that we have one so well fitted for the delicate task. May she be long continued in this capacity, and in this place, with increased compensation! If any one thinks she does not earn double her money (with gold at \$2.00), let him try it himself half a day. Parents, will you not be more careful to send your children to school in season, and to see to it that they *get there* at the time school begins? Think of ninety-two instances of tardiness during this short term of ten weeks!

During the Fall Term this school was seriously interrupted by sickness, and two bright little boys were taken from it by death. Nevertheless its general results were much in keeping with those of former terms.

DISTRICT NO. II.

Prudential Committee—MR. JOHN CRAGIN.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah E. Frost.* This teacher has had considerable experience in teaching, and is quite successful in her schools, both in disciplining and instructing her scholars. The examination was a very pleasant one, and evinced faithfulness on the part of the teacher, and a good degree of diligence on the part of the scholars.

Winter Term. Teacher, *Mr. Wm. Moore.* The district were very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Moore for the Winter term, as he had taught the same school with good success the previous winter. The order, and promptness, and

freedom from whispering of this school was highly commendable and gratifying. The instruction was thorough, and nothing was passed over that needed explanation. The punctuality of the school indicated progress in the right direction. Mr. Moore possesses a clear, vigorous mind and thorough acquaintance with the branches he undertakes to teach, and brings to bear upon his work a liberal amount of enthusiasm, which he succeeds in some way in imparting largely to his scholars. Firm but kind in discipline and entirely devoted to his work, he is one of our very best of teachers and any district is fortunate that succeeds in securing his services as teacher. The examination was witnessed by a large number of interested parents, and was very satisfactory. The instruction given in singing deserves mention, and was suitably appreciated by a handsome present to the teacher by the scholars.

DISTRICT NO. III.

Prudential Committee—MR. FRANKLIN FIELD.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss E. W. Field*. Miss Field has taught several terms in town, and her success proclaims her to be a teacher of experience and ability. The want of punctuality on the part of the scholars during this term detracted from the interest, and the highest degree of success of the Summer school. The examination however, evinced a good degree of progress, and zealous devotion to her work on the part of the teacher.

Winter Term. Teacher, *Mr. Stephen A. Sawyer*. This was the third winter Mr. Sawyer has taught this school. His success this term was as marked and gratifying as either of the previous ones. The order, precision and quiet of the school was very commendable. Whispering, the bane of any school's prosperity, was almost entirely banished from this school. *Little things* in the spelling book were not passed over, and the appearance of the classes in the higher branches was especially good. Mr. Sawyer ranks among the first of our common school teachers. The parents in this district take a lively interest in all that tends to promote the good of the school, as was shown by their attendance upon the examination; the satisfactory exercises of which were appropriately closed, by the bestowal of

a handsome present upon the teacher by the scholars, through one of their number.

DISTRICT NO. IV.

Prudential Committee—G. M. LONGLEY.

Fall Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah Converse*. This school was considerably larger than usual this term, owing to the fact that several scholars came into it from other districts. Most of these scholars, however, had to leave the school within two or three weeks of its close in order to attend the schools that were opening in their own districts about that time. This was unfortunate, both for the school and for the scholars who thus broke away from it. Better not come at all if they cannot stay through the term. Miss Converse labored faithfully and well, and the results that appeared unmistakably at the examination, showed, for the most part, a commendable degree of application and good conduct on the part of the scholars. There are some bright minds in this school, and it is gratifying to see them making such good progress.

DISTRICT NO. V.

Prudential Committee—J. D. DIAMOND.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah J. Pierce*. This was the first school Miss Pierce had ever taught. The material she had to work with was not of the most promising order, and at the beginning of the term things looked rather discouraging.—But the examination at the close of the school evinced a much better state of things. It was very plainly to be seen that a vast improvement had been effected. And yet there was, of course, room for more improvement. We must not expect great things in these primary schools. Step by step the mind opens and knowledge advances. A little advancement is encouraging. The important object to be compassed here was to free these somewhat backward scholars from the dead-weight of mere routine,—routine of study and routine of recitation, and get them to think,—opening their minds to practical ideas of things, and thus giving them a normal appetite for knowledge. This object was at least partially accomplished.

Winter Term. Same teacher, and still more encouraging results, evincing in her much perseverance and devotion to her work. It was a useful and successful school.

DISTRICT NO. VI.

Prudential Committee—J. S. MORRISON.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Mary J. Parker*. A deep interest was felt in this school, from beginning to close, by all concerned. We congratulate the district in possessing such good material, both in scholars and in their teacher. Miss Parker's instructions are accurate and thorough. Her scholars exhibited at the examination a degree of intelligence and promptness not always to be witnessed in our schools. Reading evidently was made a speciality, spelling was not neglected, and indeed all the ordinary branches received their full attention, the exercises in each of which were satisfactory. But the charming feature of the school was the orderly quiet which reigned therein. Every tendency to mischief and insubordination seemed to have been tamed to perfect sobriety and respect by the mingled refinement and dignity of the ruling spirit. May the same softening influence be felt in this school for years!

Winter Term. Same teacher, and same school numerically, but more large scholars than in the summer. The examination passed off well. The arithmetic scholars exhibited unmistakable evidence of thorough drill and praiseworthy success, particularly those in mental arithmetic, who solved their problems and gave the processes by which they arrived at their conclusions, with remarkable clearness and precision considering their ages. The exercises in geography and grammar were such as to show that it was the aim of the teacher to render her pupils masters of those branches as far as they went. Reading and spelling were carefully attended to. There are some good readers in this school, and this we consider no small thing to say of any school or of any class of scholars.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Prudential Committee—MR. JAMES SWAN.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Caroline Brooks*. This was Miss Brooks' first school, but she carried to her work a perse-

vering and earnest aim to benefit her pupils, and succeeded in awakening a good degree of attention to their studies on the part of the scholars. With a little more enthusiasm Miss Brooks will make a very good teacher. The progress of the school was interrupted by the appearance of small pox in the district, but the examination was well sustained.

Winter Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah A. Brackett*. This was a live school. The teacher met with her usual success. The examination was good, and the progress made commendable.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

Prudential Committee—JONES N. DODGE.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Emma S. Sawyer*. This was a very small, but a very interesting and profitable school. Miss Sawyer here made her first efforts in teaching, and demonstrated beyond question that she has a "call" in this direction.—May she be able to respond to it in the future. It was interesting to witness at the close of the school the distinct marks of improvement which her scholars had made during the term.

Fall Term. Teacher, *Miss Marinda K. Parker*. An explanation and apology are due from the member of the school committee having this school in charge. He was notified of its close, which was on Friday afternoon, the first of the week, but when the time came his thoughts were engaged with other things and the examination entirely slipped his mind. The mistake was owing to a default of memory—much to be regretted, indeed, but not easily remedied. At the opening of the school, however, it was plainly to be seen what the character of the instructions and their necessary results would be; and the unanimous verdict of the district has since justified our high expectations. It was said by one that they never had a teacher there who gave better satisfaction. This certainly is enough.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

Prudential Committee—SAMPSON WASHBURN.

Summer Term. Teacher, *Miss Ellen Forbush*. If ample literary qualifications, energy, and hard work on the part of the teacher can make a good school, then this were one of the best.

But these are not always sufficient. Something is necessary on the part of the scholars and the parents. Miss Forbush has succeeded well before, and this school was no exception to her success. Dullness cannot be wholly dissipated in one term.—There are some very bright and some very sluggish minds in this school,—some very forward and some very backward scholars. It is a school of mixed elements; and it requires a deal of patience, and not a little skill, and no small amount of determination to bring forth the happiest results.

Fall Term. Teacher, *Miss Sarah E. Frost*. Owing to a severe storm the day this school closed it was not examined.—We believe, however, the teacher gave good satisfaction. She appeared, at the beginning of the term, earnest and fully competent.

Winter Term. Teacher, *George Moore*. Mr. Moore came to this school under the most flattering auspices. Chosen by the unanimous voice of the district as their teacher for a second winter, fresh from his studies, full of zeal, enjoying the good will of all his pupils and the esteem of their parents, he commenced his labors with the brightest prospects of success. But as fortune, or *ill* fortune will have it sometimes, this encouraging state of things did not last. Some of the larger boys who were his fastest friends the winter before turned against him, and seemed determined to make him all the trouble in their power. In undertaking to manage them he failed to reduce them to thorough subordination; and worse than all he did not receive the proper and necessary support of the entire district.—He labored therefore at a disadvantage. The school needed the firm and even rule of an irresistible authority—it did not have it; the teacher needed the cordial and unmistakable co-operation and encouragement of the people—he did not get it. As a matter of course the school was not what it ought to have been. Mr. Moore's instructions were good. He succeeded admirably in breaking up some bad habits among his scholars, and in implanting many good ones. The examination passed off well. And those who were disposed to improve their opportunities made commendable progress in their studies. Of the visits to the school previous to examination three only were made by parents.

DISTRICT NO. X.

Prudential Committee—P. R. DAVIS.

Teacher, *Miss Mary N. Thompson*. There was but one term of school in this district. Both teacher and scholars work at a disadvantage in this school on account of the limited number of scholars. Yet, this little school of six boys, evinced progress in a very commendable degree. The teacher was patient, earnest and devoted to her work. The examination was pleasant and evinced the right kind of instruction on the part of the teacher and progress on the part of the scholars.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Your Committee in making their annual report of the schools in town, are happy to report progress. They would especially notice the promptness of the several Prudential Committees.—They take pleasure too in referring to the interest taken by the friends of education throughout the town in their schools. The Common School Association, in progress during the Winter, did much in increasing and deepening the general interest in the education of the young. In some instances there has been a want of cordial co-operation on the part of parents with teachers, but as a general thing we are happy to note the sympathy of parents with teachers in their arduous work.

GEO. DUSTAN, } S. S. Committee
C. B. FERRY, } of Peterboro'.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Districts.	Length of the sch ^l in weeks.	Wages, including board.	No. scholars.	Males.	Females.	Average attendance.	No. of tardinesses.	No. dismissals	No. not abs't	Visits of S. S. Committee	Visits of Prudential Com.	Visits of all others.
1 { 1	10	\$25 00	49	15	34	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	45	2	9	5	111
1 { 2	10	23 00	48	27	21	41	27		6	6	3	119
1 { 3	10	21 00	50	25	25	45	92	4	2	6	3	80
2	10	20 00	32	16	16	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	20	2	3		50
3	10	14 00	30	15	15	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	9	3	*		29
4		No School.										
5	9	13 00	13	9	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	8	1	2	1	12
6	12	14 00	39	14	25	32	10		9	2	2	66
7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
8	10	*	6	3	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	1	1	2	2	41
9 { 1	12	19 00	45	23	22	36	46	36	2	2		39
9 { 2	10	17 00	20	14	6	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	15	1	1		33
10		No School.										

WINTER SCHOOLS.

1 { 1	12	*	47	20	27	37	8	52	2	8	9	145
1 { 2	12	\$36 00	44	24	20	37	52	34	2	6	5	98
1 { 3	10	23 00	50	30	20	45 $\frac{3}{4}$	23	13	4	5	3	123
1 { 4	10	21 00	48	25	23	41	83	12	5	6	1	90
2	10	30 00	42	24	18	35	29	21	8	2	2	92
3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 00	43	28	15	38 $\frac{1}{8}$	11	15	12	3	2	144
4	*	11 00	14	9	5	*	14	7		2	2	*
5	12	18 00	13	9	4	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	24	3		2	1	12
6	12	24 00	38	19	19	32	28	8	4	2	1	45
7	12	*	22	6	18	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	19		6	2	4	77
8	12	14 00	6	4	2	*	1	3	1	1	2	44
9	12	38 00	55	28	27	39	98	61	5	3		35
10	12	11 68	6	6		6	3	1	2	2	2	

* Not reported.

LIBRARY REPORT.

The Committee on the Town Library submit the following Report :

No. of volumes reported last year,	2035
Added during the year,	94
	2129
Worn out during the year,	51
Lost during the year,	1— 52
	2077
No. of volumes now in the library,	

Seventy-one volumes have been added during the year by purchase ; eighteen have been presented by Hon. E. H. Rollins ; four by Hon. Daniel Clark ; and one by Nathaniel H. Morrison, Esq.

The amount collected for fines during the year is \$12.22, and the Librarian has upon his books, assessed during the year but as yet unpaid, \$3.63.

The financial condition of the Library is as follows :

Received of last year's Committee,	\$28 19
“ of Town Treasurer,	60 00
“ of Librarian (fines),	12 22
“ from sale of worn out books,	2 01
Total,	\$102 42
Paid for 71 volumes,	\$80 77
“ binding old books,	5 50
“ express, postage and incidentals,	1 31— 87 58
Balance in hands of Committee,	\$14 84

The Committee are happy to commend the efficiency with which the duties of the Librarian have been performed during the year past. The Library has been well kept and every volume on the catalogue has been properly accounted for, while we believe the citizens of the town have been well served and accommodated.

One book has been lost which was drawn by a person temporarily employed in town, who left without returning it. At the date of our examination one volume was also out and charged to Geo. N. Bailey.

All which is respectfully submitted,

R. B. HATCH,	}	Library Committee.
O. L. BRADFORD,		
C. V. DEARBORN,		

STATISTICS OF SOLDIERS.

A third preliminary report in regard to the Soldiers and Sailors furnished for the United States service by the Town of Peterborough since the breaking out of the Rebellion.

Whole number of men furnished since the rebellion commenced, 222

Number furnished since the last annual report, 45

Of these twenty were Peterborough volunteers, three were hired volunteers, seven were representative recruits, and fifteen were substitutes. One substitute was a resident of the town.

It is understood that eight men are now needed to fill the quota of the town.

Number killed in battle or who have died of wounds since the war commenced, 17

Number who have died of disease, 19

“ of accidental deaths, 1

“ wounded who have recovered or are convalescent, 31

“ who have been discharged for various causes, 57

“ who have deserted, 2

This last item is supposed to be imperfect as the report in regard to substitutes has not been received.

Since the last annual report several citizens of the town have enlisted to the credit of other towns, chiefly on account of the quota of Peterborough being filled at the time of their enlistment, and consequently the town offering no bounties. We think it would be wise in the town to adopt such a policy as to retain our own men who are desirous of enlisting and thereby avoid the necessity of filling the quota with substitutes.

E. M. TUBBS,
C. B. FERRY,
GEO. DUSTAN,

Committee to gather statistics of Peterborough soldiers in the War of the Rebellion.

